

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, passage of Michigan Senate Bills 909, 911, 912 and 967 will create a Regional Transit Authority in Southeast Michigan;

WHEREAS, this package of bills would result in a considerably higher level of coordinated public transportation service delivered more efficiently;

WHEREAS, these benefits will come as the established RTA adopts a comprehensive regional transportation plan, builds and implements a rapid transit network, consolidates service providers, becomes a designated recipient for transit related state and federal capital and operating funds, and develops a funding plan;

WHEREAS, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has renewed his appeal for lawmakers to create a regional transit authority for metropolitan Detroit in order to bring greater stability to the region's motley and disconnected public transit agencies, and better enable the flow of Federal dollars;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Municipal League has identified the eight essential assets of twenty first century communities, and transit is included among them. A transit system that is robust with integrated modality, and the highest quality infrastructure of all forms of transportation, has the capacity to create jobs, enhance the tax base, transport employees to and from the workplace, and more;

WHEREAS, SEMCOG has indicated a good transit system can attract development, businesses, tourism, and conventions. It helps connect people to jobs, making the Region more economically competitive;

WHEREAS, a quality shared by remarkable regions throughout the United States is a collaborative approach to problem solving and solution identification. We believe a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) will effectively lay the ground work for such a culture to take hold, and that the outcomes will be significant;

WHEREAS, a Regional Transit Authority is supported by Governor Snyder, and reflects his commitment to promoting economic growth and improving the quality of life in the Region;

WHEREAS, the Troy Chamber has long been an advocate for fiscally responsible investment in jobs creating infrastructure, which was manifested in its recent success with the Troy Birmingham Transit Center. With an RTA in place, a regional transportation system is more fertile, and the center itself is rendered even more viable;

WHEREAS, the Troy Chamber believes in Detroit, and wants it to be the highly successful anchor of a vital, thriving Region. With a regional approach to building out a complete transportation system, that success is within reach;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Troy Chamber's Board of Directors urges decision makers to swiftly approve the bill package creating a Regional Transit Authority, thereby enabling a systemic solution to establishing jobs creating infrastructure, and the economic success that awaits.

Adopted this 21st Day of August, 2012.

Scott Foster, Chairman

Michelle Hodges, President